

Indigenous Involvement In The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park

Sandra Bicego, Dovetail Consulting Inc*

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This presentation will cover the process undertaken by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (the Authority) as part of its rezoning of the Great Barrier Reef under the Representative Areas Program. The presentation will focus on the Authority's recent innovations through its Indigenous Policy Liaison Unit to involve the local indigenous peoples in both the planning and management of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and World Heritage Area. The Australian experience suggests that involving local communities in the planning for, and management of, endangered marine resources on which they rely for food and tradition will more likely lead to greater protection for those marine resources. Other outcomes include community capacity building and cross cultural learning. The presentation will provide an overview of the cooperative management arrangements that have been recently developed as part of the Representative Areas Program - called Traditional Use Marine Resource Agreements (TUMRAs). Information sources for this presentation are derived from research using the internet and interviews with the Authority's Indigenous Policy Liaison Unit undertaken in January 2004. Additional interview in early March 2005 will provide further updates.